
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

2/17/09

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Paula Bertram, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, Dave Matthews and CAFO Kerry Speidel present. Meeting opened at 7:01 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair announced with deep sadness the passing of Retired Fire Chief Dennis Carrier, cited years of service on both the Lunenburg Water District and with the Fire Department. Services have been scheduled for Monday, February 23rd (wake) 5:00 to 8:00 PM and Funeral on Tuesday, February 24th at 11:00 AM @ Our Lady of the Lake Church, 1400 Main Street, Leominster, offered condolences to family.

Also, condolences to the City of Leominster and the family of Army Pvt. Jonathan Roberge, who will killed while serving in the line of duty in Iraq.

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. FY'2009 Budget, FY'2010 Budget (distribution only, presentation February 26th)

- Kerry presented the attached preliminary 2010 budget and noted to the board that the final will be presented at the public hearing scheduled for February 26th. As there are a number of cuts to personnel, still needs a couple of weeks to meet with the departments to review her determinations. Estimating that there will be reduction in revenues for 2010 of \$778,735 or a 2.8% reduction over the current fiscal year. Solid Waste cost of recycling program is increased due to the contractual issues by \$20,000 as the recycling program is open to everyone and that it is the bag receipts which pay for the PAYT program. The costs that are associated with IT personnel would be shifted over to the school department to include payroll for those employees that serve the school. Chair noted that the revenue side this year is lower than it was last year and this is never a good indication of what we'll be faced with. Assessor's provide a number of exemptions, ie; senior workoff and those numbers came in under was was estimated. CAFO received a request from the Assessor's to increase overlay account by an additional \$45,000, they have about \$35,000 from prior overlay accounts and will request that they release those in order to cover some of this overlay expense.
- In terms of FY'2009 with ice storm, snow and ice budget and cuts in local aid had requested an approval of expending from the stabilization fund and consensus from the board was some hesitancy in utilizing the stabilization fund. This was also presented to the Finance Committee which met with as much concern. Will be looking to the employees for a number of concessions and as such looking to limit the request for use of the stabilization fund to whatever our liability is as a result of the ice storm. Need to figure out how to cover everything with the exception of the ice storm, hope to present to board at their first March meeting. Discussion on concern with regards to revenue projections for FY'09. CAFO will review with Town Accountant, but does not see that it will cause a \$100,000 revenue shortfall for 2009. We will be proactive and address these issues as they come up. Excise was kept level funded in 2009 had a commitment come in late in 2008, due date was well into 2009 and is therefore counted as a 2009 revenue, we will have to keep looking at this number to determine if it will remain good, may need to make larger adjustments, but there won't be any surprises to this board or the public. Anticipate updates for FY'09 at next meeting and there will have to be budget adjustments made at Special Town Meeting.

2. CAFO Updates - none

3. Minutes - 2/10/09 Regular Session reviewed and signed.

Warrants - #44 09, 2/17/09 - \$118,517.86 and #17P 09, 2/19/09 - \$646,026.10 reviewed and signed.

4. Action File Issues – Paula noted correspondence from Dan Hill regarding costs of this case (Hollis Hills) and would like an estimate of what this case has cost us to this point and what the expected costs will be moving forward.

5. Eagle Scout Court of Honor Request / Invitation – Request from family of Richard A. Lutter Jr.'s Eagle Scout Court of Honor to be held on Saturday, March 28th at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 2:30 PM. Chair will confirm that he can attend.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

- Chair, Finance Committee's topic was the budgets for 2009 changes and the proposed FY2010 budget. Both are works in progress. Next meeting is the public hearing for the budget.
- School Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow evening.

2. Municipal Electric Utility Task Force – per Chair, committee is being created to look at the feasibility of the town becoming their own municipal power company. Preliminary committee whose charge would be to examine what it would be to purchase the current infrastructure that Unitil owns, what it would cost to run by talking with other Muni's to see how they have run. Need municipal experience, electric utility experience, urge any interested applicants to fill out a talent bank form and submit to the Selectmen's Office. Depending upon interest, committee will be comprised of either five or seven members.

Chair announced that the DPU evidentiary hearings are closed and they will begin their adjudicatory hearings which the town will be submitting as an intervener. Board had agreed to send a letter, but as three members of the board did testify, that testimony is submitted as evidence as well as Chief Glenn's. Paula would like to have the comments available to the public and part of the records in town hall. Video will be aired on the local cable station this Saturday. Supreme Judicial Court has determined that the DPU will need to review a cost recovery request as there was no public hearing prior to their rate increase according to the States' Attorney Generals office.

CAFO will check whether we can obtain a copy of the written record of the Lunenburg Public Hearing.

3. Class II License Correction (Name) – no change in owner, just clerical correction on the license issued to Affinity Auto Sales should have been Affinity Corporation d/b/a Affinity Auto Sales.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen